

If a Christian dies with unconfessed sin in his life, what happens?

Well, I think I want to ask another question first. What happens to what? What happens to him? Well, of course, if he's a Christian, that does not affect his eternal life. God has promised eternal life to him believing in Christ. Of course, when all of us believed in Christ, we had a lot of sins yet ahead of us in our lives so our eternal life doesn't depend upon our confessing our sins up to the moment of death. Our eternal life depends our faith in Jesus Christ. So, nothing happens to your eternal life. That's guaranteed because of what Jesus Christ has done when he died on the cross and that's settled forever. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Neither is there any time of purging or purgatory when a Christian must suffer somehow for the sins that he has left unconfessed in his life. That again would be a violation of no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. So, the fact that there may be unconfessed sin at the time of death does not mean that a person has to go through some sort of intermediate stage of purging before he can get to heaven. Paul said to die is to be with Christ, immediately, no stops -- non-stop from the scene of death of heaven itself, to the presence of the Lord. Now, this is not to say that unconfessed sin is a trivial matter. It isn't. Unconfessed sin is a serious matter. We should confess our sins, not in order to gain eternal forgiveness but in order to maintain the family fellowship -- our relationship with our Heavenly Father and with others in the body of Christ, other members of the family of God. So, unconfessed sin is a serious matter and it behooves every Christian to see that he confesses the sins he knows about each day of his life, but if he happens to die in the middle of the day and can't confess his sins he has done that day or doesn't confess them, that doesn't mean that somehow God is so angry that he loses everything, not at all. However, I do think that as some sin comes to mind at any time during the waking hours, you ought to stop a moment and confess it to the Lord in order to keep the family fellowship intact. It may be that if sin goes for awhile unconfessed and sometimes it does and then the person dies with unconfessed sin that has persisted and he has refused to confess knowing that he should, it may be that it will affect his reward as a believer but it won't affect his being in heaven at all, but it may mean that he will lose reward and not have the crown with which to honor the Lord Jesus when we cast our crowns before His feet. So, unconfessed sin is important but if the person is a believer it does not deter his getting into heaven, but it may affect the reward that the person has when he does get to heaven.